



THE MAR THOMA BESORAH

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESAN BISHOP

Dearly Beloved,

Greetings to all in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Blessed Apostle Paul writes, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery" (Galatians 5:1). The 250th anniversary of American Independence was commemorated on July 4, and Canada Day was celebrated on July 1. The Holy Bible reminds the children of God of the freedom He has given to each one of us. Galatians 5:1 speaks of the freedom Christ has won for us through His death and resurrection: freedom from sin, the wrath of God, the Law, and the "desires of the flesh."

Living in this freedom enables us to embrace the responsibilities that come with all God has entrusted to us and to become a source of blessing to others.

We can do so only if we are willing to care for and serve others with a spirit of self-sacrificial love. Jesus gave us a new commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you." When God's love grows within us through Christ, the guidance of the Holy Spirit frees us to let that love flow to others.

~With prayers and regards,
Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos Episcopa - Diocesan Bishop



What is The Mar Thoma Besorah?

The Hebrew word, **besorah**, is translated as message or report. This newsletter includes a brief report of the Diocesan activities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Aug 6–9, 2026:**
 - Northeast Region Sunday School Junior & Senior Conference, New York
- **Aug 14–16, 2026:**
 - Diocesan Yuvajana Sakhyam Conference — Salem MTC, New York
- **Aug 20–23, 2026:**
 - Diocesan MTVEA Conference — Dallas, Texas
- **Sep 30–Oct 1, 2026:**
 - Diocesan Clergy Family Conference, Philadelphia
- **Oct 1–4, 2026:**
 - Diocesan Sevika Sanghom Conference, Philadelphia

PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONS

Native American Mission

Mexico Mission

Southwest Border - Neighborhood Mission

India Mission

Light to Life

For further details visit: marthomamission.org

Email: marthomamissionboard@gmail.com



Urban Mission 2026 will take place in **Philadelphia, PA**, from **July 18-23, 2026**, in partnership with Momentum Ministry Partners. Momentum is a Christian organization that works with local churches to host student and adult mission trips, providing hands-on ministry training and community outreach experiences.

DIOCESAN HIGHLIGHTS & REPORTS



On July 3, we celebrated St. Thomas Day, whereby we remember the life of St. Thomas, particularly his ministry, mission, and his martyrdom. The Ecumenical St. Thomas Day Celebrations were held in New York on June 26th under the leadership of St. Thomas Ecumenical Federation of North America (STEFNA), a fellowship of Indian Christian Churches in North America. Our Diocesan Bishop delivered the inaugural address.



This Fourth of July, as our nation celebrated the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the Youth Fellowship of Epiphany MTC, New York, under the leadership of Vicar, Rev. Prince Varghese, organized a meaningful day of worship and fellowship. Holy Communion service was led by NE Youth Chaplain, Rev. Jason Varghese, and the youths provided New York Nassau County Police Department fresh baked cookies as part of community outreach.



The Minneapolis Mar Thoma Congregation, Minnesota, was blessed by the visit of our Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos, on Saturday, June 6th. Thirumeni celebrated Holy Communion and was assisted by the Vicar, Rev. Biju Yohannan. Six youths received their First Holy Communion.

Native American Mission Activities - Summer VBS/Bible Camps



(1) Good Shepherd Mission in Fort Defiance, Arizona



(2) St. Christopher's Mission in Bluff, Utah



(3) All Saint's Episcopal Church in Farmington, New Mexico

Native American Mission activities continued during the months of June and July with three Vacation Bible Schools/Bible Camps taking place in partnership with the Episcopal Church in Navajoland. The following camps took place: (1) Fort Defiance, Arizona, from June 28-30, 2026; (2) Bluff, Utah, from July 12-15, 2026; and (3) Farmington, New Mexico, from July 16-19, 2026. We are deeply grateful to all the coordinators and volunteers from across the Diocese who so generously dedicated their time, talents, and efforts to making these camps a blessed and meaningful experience.

Canada Region: Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos Thirumeni inaugurated the Faith Ally for Mental Health Initiative (FAMHI) program on June 28. The online seminar focused on "Reframing Mental Wellness as a Continuum for All of Us", emphasizing an understanding of well-being across every stage of life. The session was led by Susan Mathews and Toby John, both mental health professionals, who shared their expertise and insights on promoting mental wellness.

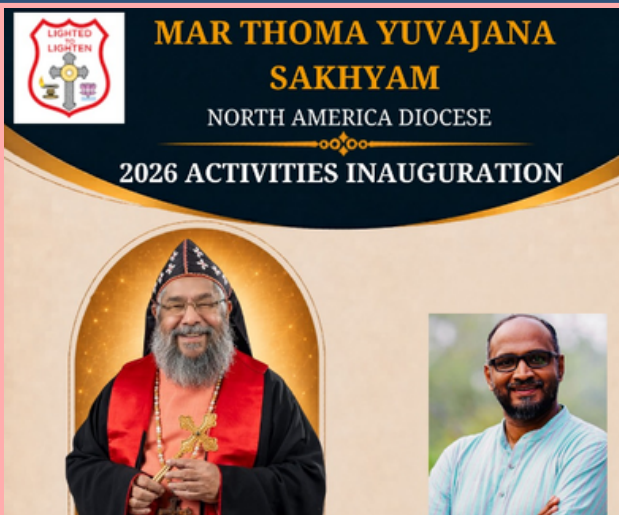
The Mar Thoma Western Region comprises churches in the U.S. states of California, Oregon, Arizona, Washington, and Colorado. The Western Region Young People Conference was held in Seattle from June 19–21, 2026, at the Black Diamond Camp Centre. The sessions were led by Lay Chaplain Mrs. Pushpa Samuel, who guided the youth through the conference theme, "Connected: With God, Ourselves, and Others." Nearly 100 young people from various parishes across the Western Region participated with great enthusiasm.



Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Paulos Thirumeni addressed the gathering of 17 churches at the Ecumenical Family Night - 2026 which was held on June 6th, Saturday evening, at the Syro-Malabar Cathedral, Bellwood, Chicago. During the gathering, parents who have dedicated their children for full-time ministry were honored by the Ecumenical Council.

Mar Thoma Yuvajana Sakhyam - Diocese of North America - 2026 Inauguration of Activities

Diocesan Bishop, His Grace Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos Episcopa, delivered the presidential address and officially inaugurated this year's activities. Mr. Robin Thomas (Youth Chaplain, Thiruvananthapuram–Kollam Diocese) shared the main message based on the theme, "Reflect in Christ." Additionally, Rev. Byju Thomas, General Secretary of the Mar Thoma Yuvajana Sakhyam, shared a felicitation message.



Diocesan Episcopa Paulos Thirumeni inaugurated the Southeast Region Sunday School Jr. & Sr. Conference held at Bryn Athyn College, Philadelphia, PA. Close to 200 students and chaperons attended the conference. SE Region of the MTC comprises of US States New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, DC, Virginia, and North Carolina.



On June 19-21, 2026, the Canada Regional Family Conference was hosted by St. Thomas MTC, Calgary. Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos Episcopa inaugurated the conference, and other leaders and clergy led various sessions. First Communion was also held. Rev. Suresh Varghese served as Convenor.

